

ON A NEW AND REMARKABLE SUB-SPECIES OF *LIMNÆA*
PEREGER, MÜLL., FROM ICELAND.

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Read 9th January, 1914.

THE series of specimens upon which the present sub-species is based were handed to me for examination by Mr. F. H. Sikes, in whose honour I have much pleasure in naming it, and who collected them in August, 1912, during his recent extensive travels in Iceland. As far as the collector is aware, they occur only in Rautharvatn or 'red lake', which, he informs me, is "little more than a tarn among a desert of red earth" situated between Reykjavik and Thingvellir.

Mr. Sikes paid three visits to this lake, and on each occasion took specimens on some submerged rocks which appear to be their only habitat. The only other species of mollusc represented in Rautharvatn is *Pisidium lilljeborgii*, Clessin,¹ which attains a large size, and the collector has pointed out to me at some length the almost exact similarity of the circumstances under which the present *Limnæa* was



collected to those in which he had previously taken the Irish *L. involuta*, Thomp.,² in Lough Crinealum, co. Kerry, which it would seem occurs also in that lake with but one molluscan co-inhabitant, but which in this latter instance proved to be *Pisidium* sp.

After careful examination of the very long series of *L. pereger* in Mr. Sikes' collection I have been unable to find any form to which the present sub-species may be profitably compared, its nearest ally being *ovata*, Draparnaud,³ though from this it differs appreciably in many ways, among the more noteworthy being its more oblong shape, extremely thin texture, and much less exerted spire.

Mr. Sikes further informs me that the animals are of a very pale colour and the shell so fragile that he broke many specimens in attempting to extract them.

¹ Clessin in Esmark & Hoyer, Malak. Blätt., N.F., viii, p. 119.

² Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., London, vol. v, p. 22, 1840.

³ Hist. Nat. moll. terr. fluv. France, p. 52, pl. ii, figs. 30-1.

LIMNÆA PEREGER SIKESI, n.subsp.

Shell oblong-ovate, thin, yellowish-brown horn-colour; whorls 4, the first three small, not much exerted, regularly increasing, the last very large, smooth but for lines of growth; suture impressed; columella-margin very obliquely descending, a little bulging above, and diffused into a thin, ill-defined, parietal callus which reaches to the upper margin of the labrum; labrum acute above, a little dilated at the base; aperture oblong-ovate. Alt. 20 mm.; diam. maj. 13, min. 9·5 mm. Aperture: alt. 16, diam. 10 mm.

Hab.—Rautharvatn, S.W. Iceland.

Type in the British Museum, presented by Mr. Sikes. The Museum is also greatly indebted to him for his very fine and extensive collection of British land and freshwater shells, which he most liberally presented last year.